Empowerment Through Technology

Steven Parker

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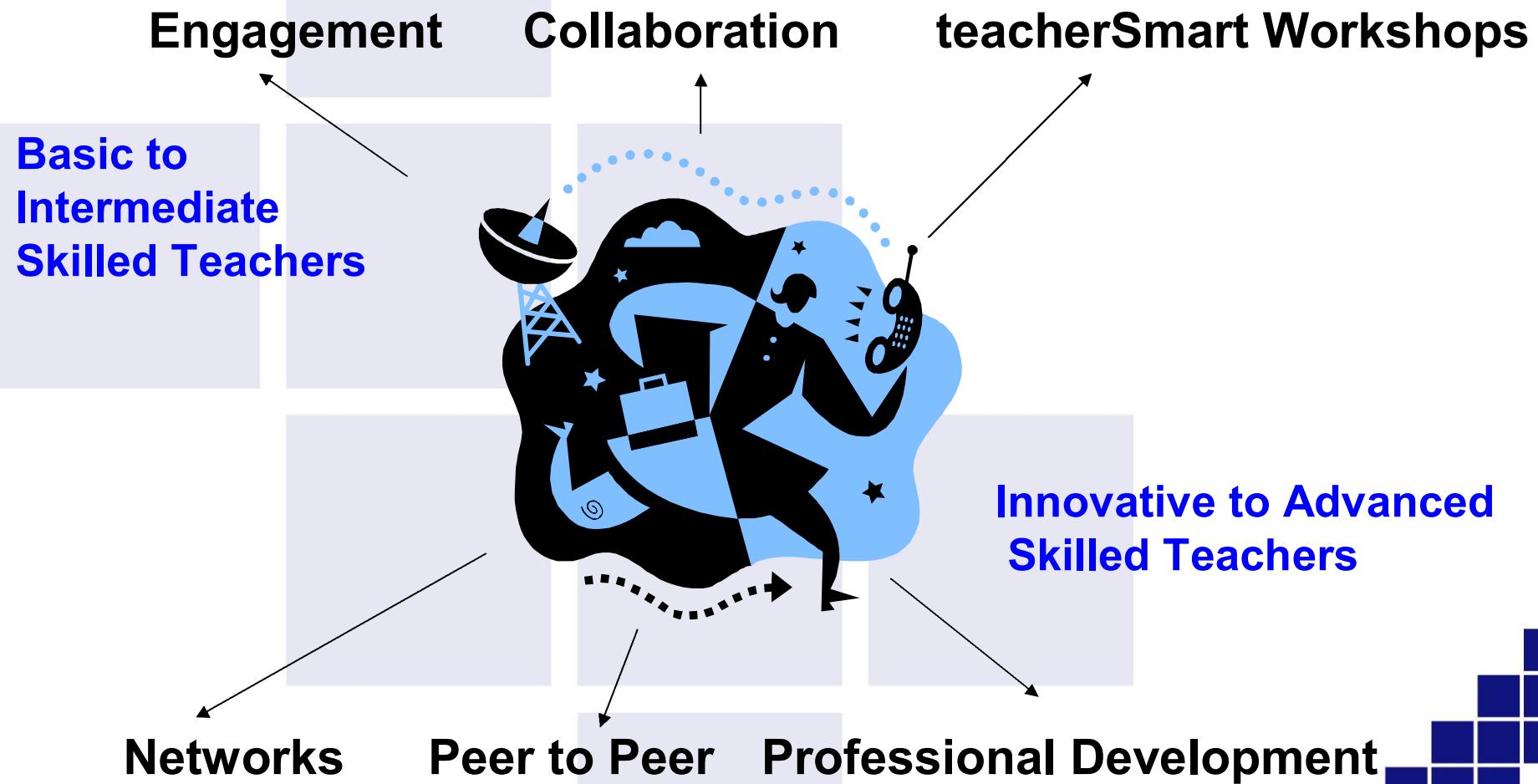ISO 9001

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We need to live in both worlds…

"…the classroom and the Web. The brave new world of net delivered and assisted training is exciting and real. [However], we strongly believe that it is not a replacement for classroom instruction but a critical extension of learning services."

-- *Elliott Masie, President of The MASIE Center, an international think tank focusing on learning and technology*

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- **<u>PAST</u>** IT, WEB Developers and Instructional Designers were responsible for creating and managing online delivery resources
- **<u>PRESENT</u>** teachers with Basic to Intermediate skills are able to gain empowerment through the use of tools ie: *teacherSmart* to design and develop their own resources
- **<u>FUTURE</u>** Moving into era where teachers are leading the way with teaching innovation to engage and utilise latest technologies through networks and collaboration
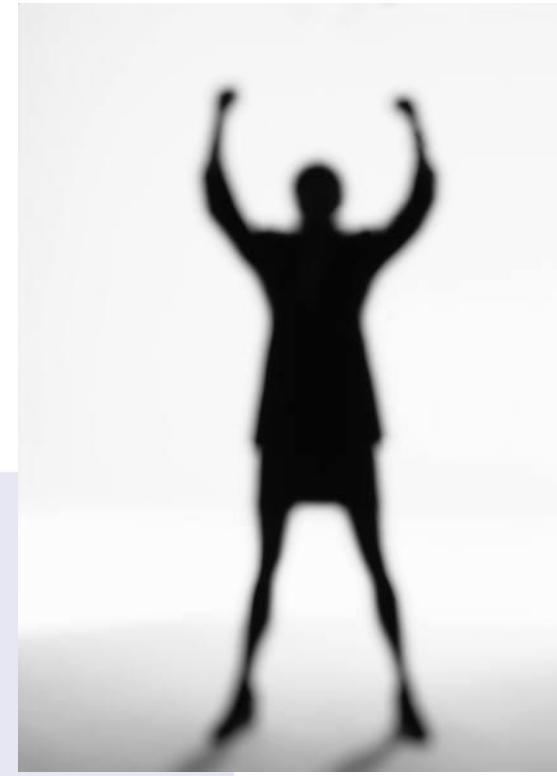
Empowerment Process

Engagement   **Collaboration**   **teacherSmart Workshops**

Basic to Intermediate Skilled Teachers

Innovative to Advanced Skilled Teachers

Networks   **Peer to Peer**   **Professional Development**

CURRENT CHALLENGES

The challenges we face as Teachers can be daunting:

- *Fast pace of change in technology*
- *Knowledge and Understanding*
- *Time*
- *Access*

TECHNOLOGY AND CHANGE

- *Chalk and Blackboard*
- *Whiteboard*
- *Overhead Projector*
- *Folders and Note Books*
- *Text Books*
- *Photocopier*
- *Powerpoint*

Latest Technologies:
Wikis, Blogs, Podcasting

The evolution in teaching and learning practices, has significantly impacting our working and learning life.

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Teacher Skill Levels:

- *Basic* – Not familiar using a computer.

- *Intermediate* – Familiar with Word, Outlook Emailing and the Internet.

- *Advanced* – Comfortable with utilizing technology, for work and creative use.

- *Innovative 'Mavericks'* – A creative minority experimenting and utilizing new technologies at advanced level.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TLRU engages the basic to intermediate skilled teacher and facilitates teacher Professional Development through:

- ***Workplace training***
- ***TLRU workshops***
- ***Online courses***

TLRU Workplace Training
Embracing New Technologies - **VIDEO**

TLRU trainers consult and facilitate the teacher on user friendly, accessible and innovative technologies for instructional design and application.**

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TLRU MORNING WORKSHOPS
Basic - Intermediate

- Word
- Outlook- Email
- Digital camera
- Hot potatoes
- Powerpoint

Teachers are invited to attend.

Morning workshops on a variety of key technologies.

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TLRU ONLINE COURSES
e.g. 'Induction'

**_Teachers can empower themselves with critical Institute information by working online at their own pace_

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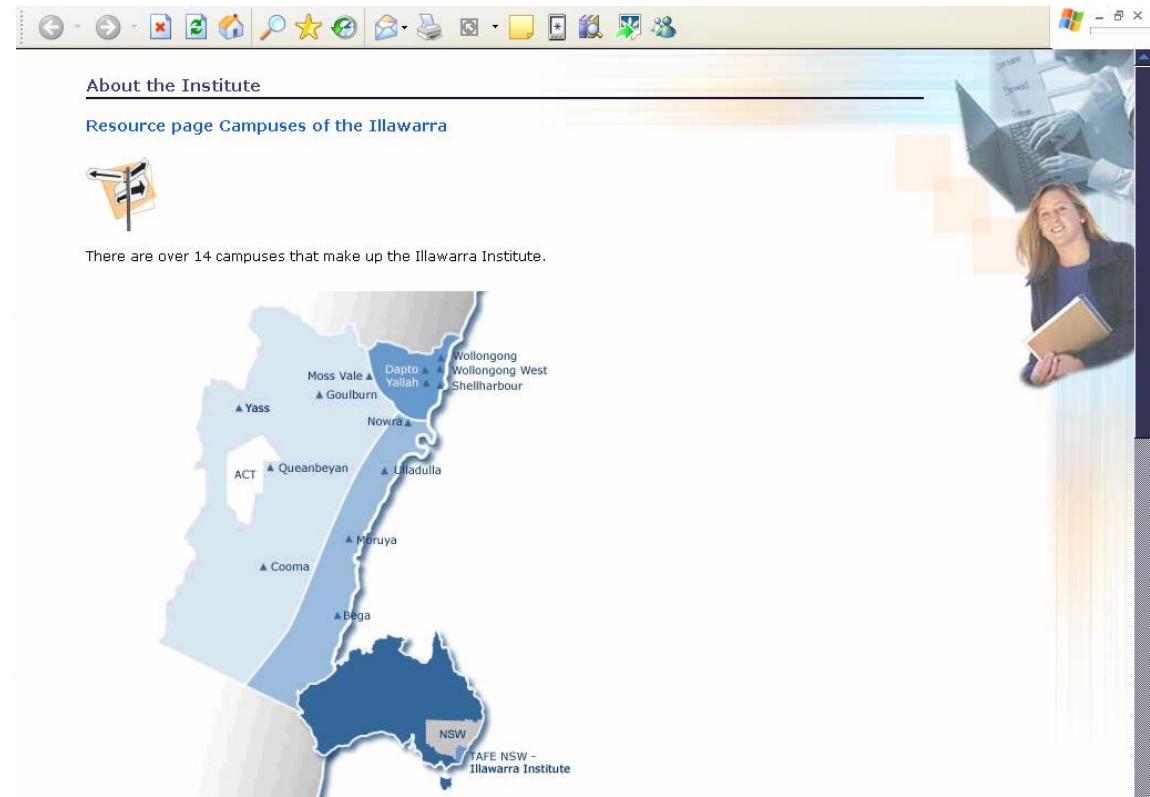
TEACHERS MANAGING TECHNOLOGY
Making The Leap

"Train a teacher to manage technology and they will be empowered"
We need to empower teachers to:

- Embrace new technology with ease

- Cope with future changes in technology

- Develop and deliver flexibly with new and exciting resources

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- ***TeacherSmart Training*** is a 1-2 day Professional Development programme for teachers of all skills levels to learn new technologies for teaching practices.

- ***TeacherSmart Desktop*** is tool that <u>simplifies</u> the preparation of print, online and CD lessons.

TeacherSmart enables the teacher to easily <u>develop</u> and <u>deliver</u> quality instructional programs to promote learning and the engagement of students.

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SKILL BUILDING

We provide resources and technical support guiding teachers through a step-by-step process that challenges with hands on tasks:

- Working as a team
- Sourcing existing resource
- Self directing
- Managing workflow

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Empowerment Through Collaborative Group Based Learning

- *Determine skill levels*
- *Brainstorm activity ideas as a group*
- *Discuss use of technologies*
- *Allocate individuals activities to achieve aims.*

Group Task
eg. Create resource

TEACHERS

○ BEGINNER

● INTERMEDIATE

● ADVANCED

TLRU

1   1

1

3

2

2

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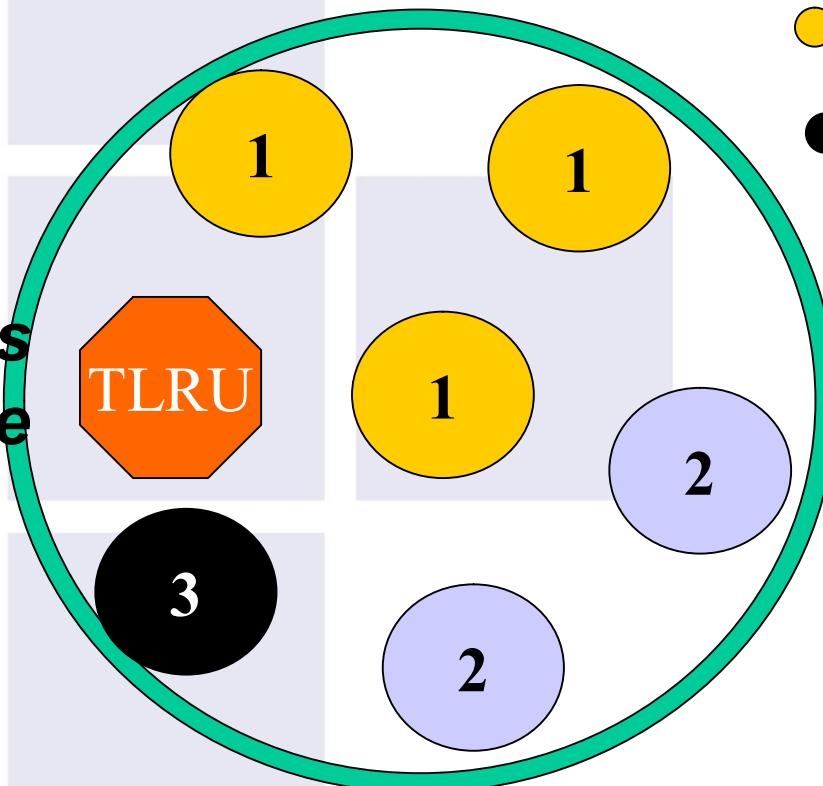
To begin Set Boundaries on Technology

Hot Potatoes™
From Half-Baked Software Inc

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Source existing resources, why reinvent?

www.creativecommons.org

www.wikipedia.org - Free online Encyclopedia

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Develop activities – Then Show and Tell

TEACHERS

⬤ BEGINNER

⬤ INTERMEDIATE

⬤ ADVANCED

TLRU

2   **2**

**Creative commons
Using Word**

1 ⟷ **1**

**Hot
potatoes
quizzes**

Podcasting

3   **1**

Blogger
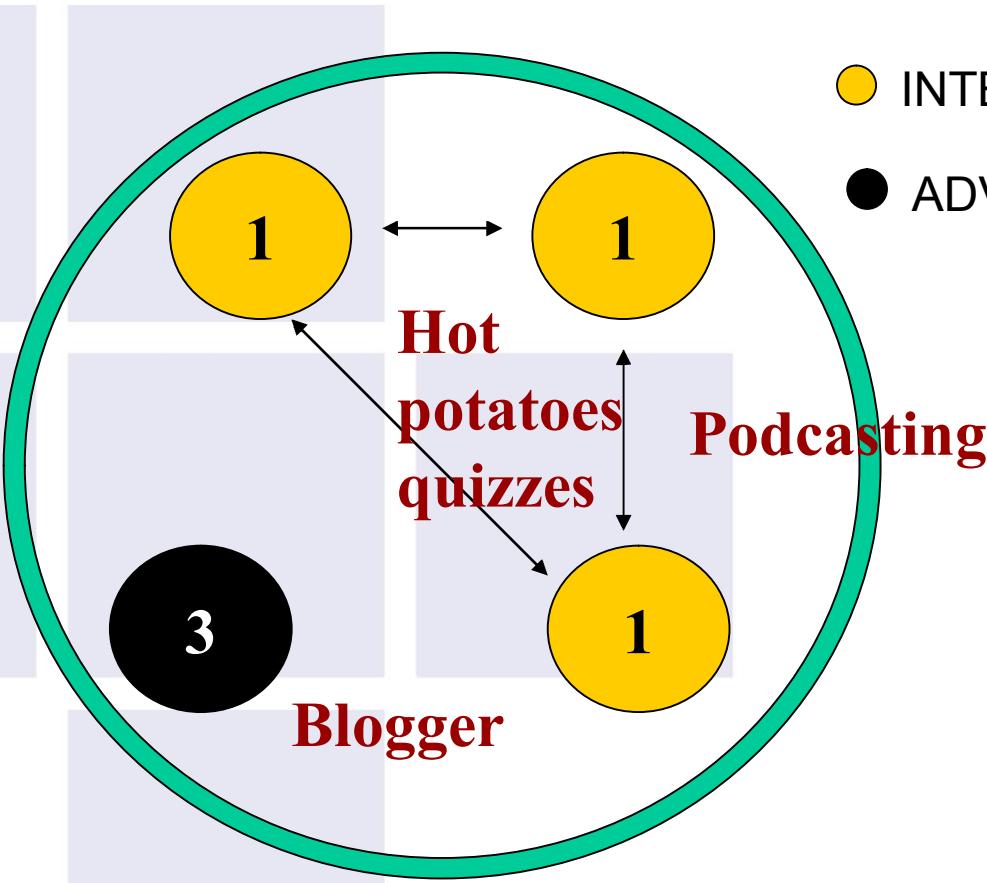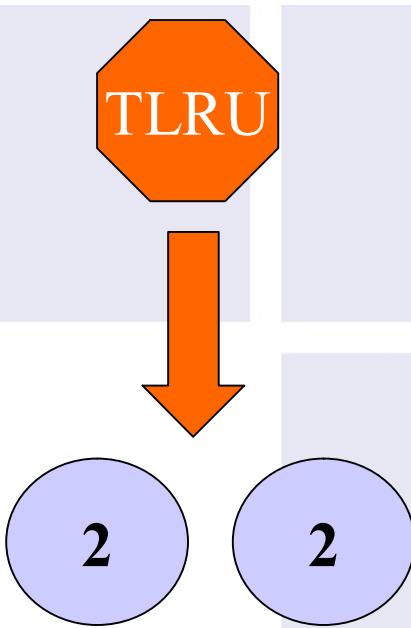
TeacherSmart - A tool to simplify

Desktop   SmartConvert

Teachers are empowered and often walk away with:

- *The Awareness, confidence in their own abilities, and the skills and knowledge to source utilize and develop eLearning resources.*

- *The impetus to become active participants of an online network of teachers to exchange ideas and information (peer to peer).*

There is an explosion in Networking Technologies – Ride The Wave

'**Collaborate with your peers** on lesson planning and materials development, as well as enrich your own professional and personal growth. As you build your collection of lessons, materials and resources for your own classes, you can share them with other teachers, and **everyone can get more work done with less effort.**'
www.HotChalk.org

NETWORKING TECHNOLOGIES

Web-based applications that enable links to be made between teachers and content for networking, research, teaching and learning.

Examples
- Blogs & online journals – Blogger
- Wikis - Wikispaces
- Photo publish & sharing - Flickr
- Media hosting & publishing - OurMedia,
- Web-based web feed readers - Bloglines
- Social networking sites - Yahoo 360, MySpace

More info:

www.networklearning.blogspot.com

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www.skype.com – Free!

- Free phonecalls!

- Share files

- Conference

- Chat

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www.janison.com.au – Learning Management System Video conferencing

The Benefits of Networking

- **Sharing Capabilities** ideas and project work
- **Sharing resources**, workspaces, internet connection
- **Sharing knowledge** and information,
- **Promotes team environments** and fosters commitment to work toward same goals for the benefit of all

Embrace The Maverick Ethic!

- *If the innovation is useful it will flourish, otherwise it will not be adopted*

- Despite the pace of change, we must examine and test each new technology.

- *We must develop and disseminate technologies that significantly increase quality of learning and 'ROI' of teacher time.*

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- **<u>SOLUTION</u>** Organisations like the TLRU engage teachers with teacherSmart Professional Development to engage, develop and **empower teachers with network learning skills** to move with the times.

Conclusion

"Show one technology to a teacher; you have satisfied them for today. Guide the teacher to manage technology <u>and</u> to network with peers; then they will be empowered for the future."